

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2194

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2843

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, EFIN, CA, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF REAL
PROPERTY IN ONTARIO.

REF : STATE 216181

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL TORONTO SUPPLEMENTS
EARLIER REPORT FORWARDED OTTAWA 2747.

BEGIN TEXT

I CALLED UPON JOHN WHITE, TREASURER OF ONTARIO AND MINISTER
OF ECONOMICS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AND DISCUSSED
INTERIM REPORT OF LEGISLATURE'S SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
AND CULTURAL NATIONALISM WHICH RECOMMENDED LIMITING OWNER-
SHIP OF REAL PROPERTY TO CANADIANS AND LANDED IMMIGRANTS.
I SPOKE ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL 216181.

WHITE RECALLED THAT A FEW YEARS AGO HE CHAIRED A SELECT
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE ON TAXATION AND THUS HAS
FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF SELECT COMMITTEES WHICH MUST JUSTIFY
THEIR EXISTENCE WITH THE PUBLICATION OF "DRAMATIC" REPORTS.
HE ASSURED ME THAT THE THINKING OF THE LEGISLATURE AS
WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO IS NOT THAT OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS CONCERN IN
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ONTARIO ABOUT FOREIGN, THAT IS U.S., OWNERSHIP OF SUMMER

COTTAGES ON ONTARIO LAKES WHICH MANY BELIEVE ARE BECOMING OVERCROWDED. NEVERTHELESS, HE SUGGESTED THAT LEGISLATION AGAINST FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY ANYTIME SOON, AS NOT ONLY THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BUT MANY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN ONTARIO UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH DISCRIMINATION COULD LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE QUID PRO QUO RECIPROCITY.

WHITE SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RESPOND IN WRITING TO A WRITTEN REQUEST ON OUR PART IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. I THANKED WHITE FOR THIS OFFER AND SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING I DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE NECESSARY. ALTHOUGH A WRITTEN DEMARCHE MIGHT BE USEFUL, AS THE REPLY COULD COMMIT THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT, IT COULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION IN SOME QUARTERS AS INTERFREENCE ON OUR PART.

END OF TEXT
SCHMIDT

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